

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 CU-04 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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/092 W

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R 250930Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6161

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 1028

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FR, MZ

SUBJECT: VISIT OF FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD TO MOZAMBIQUE

REF: (A) MAPUTO 1007; (B) MAPUTO 0999

1. SUMMARY. FRENCH AMBASSADOR THINKS DE GUIRINGAUD VISIT TO MOZAMBIQUE WAS ON BALANCE A PLUS. ONLY UNTOWARD EPISODE WAS PRESIDENT MACHEL'S HARSH PUBLIC CRITICISM OF WEST AND FRANCE, OTHERWISE TALKS WERE FRANK AND USEFUL. MOZAMBICANS WERE CORDIAL HOSTS. END SUMMARY.

2. FRENCH AMBASSADOR PAUL BLANC GAVE AMBASSADOR THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT AND ASSESSMENT OF FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD'S AUGUST 16 AND 18 VISIT TO MOZAMBIQUE:

A. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS. DE GUIRINGAUD WAS PLEASED WITH PROGRAM ARRANGED BY MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT (GPRM). THIS INCLUDED TALKS WITH PRESIDENT SAMORA MACHEL, FOREIGN MINISTER JOAQUIM CHISSANO AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT MARCELINO DOS  
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SANTOS. OTHER MEMBERS OF DE GUIRINGAUD'S PARTY HAD SEPARATE TALKS ON FRENCH ASSISTANCE. DE GUIRINGAUD WAS FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH COMPETENCE OF MOZAMBIQUE'S TOP LEADERS, ESPECIALLY CHISSANO. HE FOUND THEM WELL INFORMED, SELF-CONFIDENT, CANDID BUT WILLING TO LISTEN. DE GUIRINGAUD WAS ALSO SUPRISED AT HOW LITTLE IDEOLOGY ENTERED INTO THE DISCUSSIONS. NOT ONCE, FOR EXAMPEL, WAS THERE ANY MENTION

OF MARXISM-LENINISM.

B. ZAMBIBWE AND NAMIBIA. MACHEL TOLD DE GUIRINGAUD THAT MOZAMBIQUE SUPPORTS THE ANGLO-- AMERICAN AND FIVE POWER INITIATIVES SO LONG AS OBJECTIVES OF INITIATIVES ARE TRUE INDEPENDENCE AND MAJORITY RULE. APPARENTLY, SUSPICIONS OF WESTERN MOTIVES ARE STILL STRONG. CHISSANO VOICED MISGIVINGS ABOUT ELECTIONS IN ZIMBABWE, NOTING THAT AT TIMES ELECTIONS CAN BE DIVISIVE AND MAY NOT ALWAYS EXPRESS TRUE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE. HOWEVER, AT NO TIME DID EITHER MACHEL OR CHISSANO SAY THEY OBJECTED TO ELECTIONS IN ZIMBABWE.

C. INDIAN OCEAN. IN ADVANCE OF VISIT, CHISSANO HAD ASKED THAT DE GUIRINGAUD COME PREPARED TO TALK ABOUT INDIAN OCEAN. CHISSANO URGED FRANCE TO PURSUE DETENTE IN INDIAN OCEAN AREA MUCH AS FRANCE HAD PURSUED DETENTE FOR EUROPE AT HELSINKI CONFERENCE. QUESTION OF ALLEGED FRENCH BASES IN INDIAN OCEAN DID NOT COME UP. HOWEVER, CHISSANO DID EXPRESS GPRM CONCERN OVER FRENCH POLICY IN MAYOTTE, WHICH DE GUIRINGAUD TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN.

D. MACHEL'S CRITICISM OF WEST AND FRANCE. MACHEL'S PUBLIC DENUNCIATION OF WEST AND FRANCE FOR THEIR TIES WITH SOUTH AFRICA CAUGHT DE GUIRINGAUD BY SURPRISE. BLANC THOUGHT DE GUIRINGAUD (WHO PRESENT DURING INTERVIEW) DID NOT REACT AT TIME BECAUSE MACHEL'S INTERVIEW WITH MEDIA WAS BRIEF, MACHEL CONCLUDED INTERVIEW WITH COMMENT THAT FRANCE'S CLOSE TIES WITH SOUTH AFRICA APPEARED BE THING OF THE PAST, AND BECAUSE MACHEL'S GOOD NATURED MANNERISMS DURING CONFIDENTIAL

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INTERVIEW MASKED THE HARSHNESS OF THE ATTACK. HOWEVER, WHEN DE GUIRINGAUD READ ACCOUNT IN NEWSPAPER THE NEXT MORNING, HE WAS UPSET.

E. FRENCH ASSISTANCE TO MOZAMBIQUE. THE FRENCH DELEGATION OFFERED GPRM A MIX OF LOANS TOTALING APPROXIMATELY 50 MILLION FRANCES, 4,000 TONS OF WHEAT (BUT SHIPPING TO BE PAID BY MOZAMBIQUE) AND LIMITED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. MOZAMBICANS COMPLAINED THAT FRENCH OFFER WAS UNCLEAR. THEY ALSO FOUND IT UNATTRACTIVE WHEN COMPARED TO TERMS OF OTHER AID MOZAMBIQUE HAS BEEN RECEIVING. IN END, NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED. AMBASSADOR BLANC IS NOW SEEKING TO PERSUADE PARIS TO MAKE TERMS OF ITS OFFER MORE ATTRACTIVE.

F. CONCLUSION. DESPITE MACHEL'S CRITICISM AND AID IMPASSE, AMBASSADOR BLANC THINKS VISIT ON BLANC WAS A PLUS. HOWEVER, HE NOT SURE WHAT DE GUIRINGAUD WILL CONCLUDE FROM VISIT FOLLOWING THE INCIDENT IN DAR ES SALAAM. BLANC THINKS TANZANIAN INCIDENT MAY HAVE SO SOURED DE GUIRINGAUD THAT HE WILL DECIDE NOT TO PURSUE HIS EFFORTS TO DEVELOP CLOSER RELATIONS WITH ANGLOPHONE COUNTRIES OF SOUTHER AFRICA. ON OTHER HAND, BLANC THINKS THERE STILL CHANGE THAT DE GUIRINGAUD WILL HAVE ASSESSED RESULTS IN THREE OF THE FOUR COUNTRIES VISITED AS PROMISING ENOUGH TO CONTINUE HIS EFFORTS TO EXPAND

RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES IN THIS PART OF AFRICA.

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009